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HISTORY OF Pinegrove Twp.



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JOSEPH H. ZERBEY HISTORY

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History of Pine Grove Township

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COMPILED BY WILLIAM H. SMITH

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Nathan Morgan, Richard Barr, Elias Berger, Hiram Schnoke, L. G. E. Felty, John Groh, Harrison Adams, Mrs. Frank Wenrich, Chas. Boyer, Wm. C. Umbenhauer, Rev. H. S. Dollman, Prof. J. M. Schrope, Asa Weimer, Wm. Fidler, John Merrell, Andrew Klick, Ottis Rehrer, Harold Hummel, Wm. Hummel, Jacob Miller, Alfred Gilbert, L. F. McDonough, Prof. G. A. Behney, and Adam Koble.

The first surveys of land in Pine-grove Township were in the case of warrants granted to John, Richard and Thomas Penn, proprietaries. The tracts surveyed were contiguous and extended across the southern part of township into the townships of Washington and Wayne, and included the site of Pine Grove Borough.

The part which is now Pine Grove Township belonged to Lancaster County up to 1754, when Berks County was organized. Up to 1754, this section north of the Blue, or Kittatinny Mountains, was known as Blue Mountain Hollow. It was organized in 1771, from Bethel Township, Berks County.

Pine Grove Township was one of the original civil organizations, transferred from Berks County in 1811, when Schuylkill County came into existence. Berks County, at this time, created three townships north of the Blue Mountains, Pine Grove, Manheim, and Brunswick.

Pine Grove Township is located in the southwest corner of the county, and is bounded on the south by Berks County, on the west by Lebanon County, on the east by Washington Township, and on the north by Tremont Township. The settlement of this township began

about 1750, the earliest pioneers being Germans from Berks County, who settled near the base of the Blue Mountains, in the southern part of the township.

The first settlers were harassed by Indian depredations, and some forts, or block houses were built for protection against the Indians. Fort Henry, south of the Blue Mts., on the Pine Grove-Millersburg trail, was one of these.

Frederick Schnoke who came to settle in 1753, bought rights from a man by the name of Umhue for two bushels of wheat. Some of the earliest settlers in this township before the Revolutionary War were the Schnoke, Hetrick, Schwope, Schaefer, Bressler, Boyer, Zimmerman, Felty and Stein families. Some of these had left their wilderness homes for a time during the Revolution, but subsequently returned and occupied them. It is a record that when Frederick Schnoke, who had returned across the Blue Mountains for safety, came back after an absence of seven years, he found the saplings of young trees grown through the floor and roof of his home.

With the close of the war, settlers came more rapidly, and soon after that critical period in our national

history there was quite an accession to the previously sparse settlements. The families of Minich, Gebert and Beuchler were contemporary with the families previously mentioned, or came very soon after them. Other early established families, whose coming dates, practically from the close of the Revolution, were: August Brosius, John Weiss, Henry Souder, Jacob Heberling, John Heberling, Valentine Heberling, Jacob Smythe, Adam Kalbach, George Pressler, John Adams, George Berger, Baltzer Smith. Many descendants of these pioneers still live in the township, and many of the old homesteads are occupied by members of the posterity. The house built near the same place, after Frederick Schnoke's house was torn down, is now occupied by Raymond Schnoke, the sixth generation.

A Mr. Gistwite settled in the western part of the township, near Mifflin, now Suedburg, about 1756. While at work on his log cabin, he was murdered by the Indians.

George Felty settled near Suedburg as early as 1770. His descendants are numerous in the township. John Stein settled about two miles west from Pine Grove near 1760. His descendants are very numerous in the township. The old homestead was in possession of the Steins until recently. Bernhart Zimmerman settled in the southeast part of the township and many of his descendants reside in the township to this day. John Moyer came in 1790; Isaac Harvey about 1830, and Michael Wenrich still earlier. The names of many of the pioneers are irretrievably lost.

Two Keefers had located at Stanhope a few hundred yards west of the present schoolhouse where Allen Zimmerman lives at present. They were attacked by Indians and ran

up the back valley to where a man named Bressler had settled, now the home of George Schnoke. The Indians followed them and killed them. Bressler had heard the cries of these men and jumped on his horse and started across the Blue Mountains, and so escaped. A party of men who went to investigate found them, and having no picks or shovels buried them in the rocks.

A well authenticated tradition establishes the family of Mr. Everhard, consisting of four persons, on the site of Pine Grove, as early as 1755. During the Indian foray of this same year, the entire family was massacred, except one daughter aged about seven years. She was taken as a prisoner into Muskingum County, Ohio, where she lived as a member of an Indian family until the year 1763, when the Indians being defeated by General Bouquet, the white prisoners were liberated under the terms of the treaty. Miss Everhard was recognized by some of the old neighbors and subsequently married a Mr. Salada, of Berks County, and became the progenitress of a numerous and prominent posterity. Some of her descendants reside in Schuylkill County, while many are residents of Berks County, and the West. This tradition is verified by a complete record of the events here stated, carefully preserved in an old family Bible.

Early records indicate that this region never was a real camping place for Indians. The Delaware River to the East and the Susquehanna to the West afforded fine fishing places for the Indians and this may account for so few Indian atrocities in this vicinity.

The early settlers were employed mostly in lumbering which was the principal industry for many years.

The territory is now largely farming land, and many of the working-men are miners. The region was dotted with saw-mills which were built and now permitted to go to decay. It is believed that Baltzer Smith built the first one about 1780, on a branch of the Swatara, about one mile south of Pine Grove. These saw-mills had an upright saw that moved up and down, and were necessary as circular saws could not be used to saw these heavy logs.

A grist mill was built about 1782 on Swope's Creek, at the entrance to Swope's Valley. This was patronized by people thirty miles away. Another was soon built by John Schaefer on Swatara Creek near Suedburg, and soon afterward another on the present site of Zachariah Batdorf's, near North Pine Grove, by a man named Uhler.

A distillery was built about 1790 at North Pine Grove by a Mr. Swalm, who was scalded to death while working in it. About 1800 another was built by Peter Lehr on a farm later owned by John Felty. Baltzer Hautz, John Zimmerman and Jacob Stine also erected and operated distilleries.

Tavern Dates Back To 1790

A tavern, known as the Red Tavern, was opened as early as 1790 at North Pine Grove, by John and Solomon Albright, who were early settlers here. They were succeeded by Henry Conrad and he by Henry Zimmerman. It became a dwelling and in about 1858 it was burned. The Albrights also kept a store in a part of the building. Frederick Rudy kept a tavern in a log building which stood on the Brookside farm, near the present bridge, as early as 1785. He was succeeded by a Mr. Woods, who converted it into a store and it was afterward burned.

Jacob Kunkle, a native of Holland, located in what is now the present site of Pine Grove Borough in 1771. He laid claim to a large tract of land, which he subsequently purchased from John and Richard Penn. He later moved to a farm one mile south of Pine Grove, where he died in 1813. He is buried in the old cemetery opposite the St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Kunkle built a powder mill at the entrance to Swope's Valley. The mill was blown up two or three times, but was rebuilt after each explosion. In all, it was operated more than a hundred years. One man is reported as being killed.

Furnished Powder For Bunker Hill

Some of the powder made here was used at the Battle of Bunker Hill. This powder was taken by a four-oxen team. It was to cross the Delaware River where Easton now is. The men in charge of the team stopped at a farm a short distance on this side. The farmer informed them that they had no chance of crossing as the bridge was guarded. He told them to stay overnight and he would find a way to get their powder safely across the river.

The farmer had fields on the other side of the river, and had been hauling manure across for several days, and being sure they would not stop him, he placed some powder in the wagon and loaded manure on top. He took it across and hid it on the other side, and making other similar trips finally got all the powder safely past the guards. The ox-team now passed over without any trouble, loaded up the powder on the other side and continued their trip for some distance, when they were met by American soldiers on horseback who took the powder to its destination.

Origin of Name

The grove of pines from which Pine Grove Township derived its name was not located near the present town of Pine Grove. This beautiful grove of trees grew in the valley on the south side of Mahantongo Mountains east of Klinger's Gap.

Three descriptions of this very beautiful grove of trees, all written before the War for Independence are still on record. One was by John Bartran, the famous botanist whose house and garden now form a public park in West Philadelphia. Another was by Lewis Evans, surveyor and map maker whose descriptions of early Pennsylvania are among the best of his time. The third was by Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, (grandson of Conrad Weiser and brother of General Peter Muhlenberg), who became the first speaker of the National House of Representatives.

Lewis says: "We went down a very stony, steep descent to the Laurel Creek, a rivulet which falls into Kind Creek about eight miles lower down. Leaving this creek on the left hand, the path led us through a narrow pass between two mountains where grew the tallest white pines I ever saw. I will not hazard my judgment to what height I guessed them to be because it is so incredible."

Bartran described them as a grove of white pine, very lofty and so close that the sun could hardly shine through. Muhlenberg tells us that this grove was still standing when Pine Grove Township was organized in 1771.

When this new township was organized, it cut off from Bethel all the land north of the crest of the Blue Mountains, and the outstanding feature of the new township was this grove of white pines through which the Shamokin trail passed. So the new township was named Pine Grove Township. The

borough taken out of the heart of this township was then named after the township.

Henry Gensemer, son of George Gensemer, born Oct. 16, 1782 and died in 1873, while a boy of eleven years, made a trip over the Blue Mountains into Schuylkill County with a party who was making a visit to this section. Seeing some evidently hostile Indians on the top of the mountains the white people crawled in an old hollow log and waited for the savages to take their departure before proceeding on their trip.

Reading Was Township P. O.

Reading was the postoffice for Pine Grove Township up to 1819, when a post office was established at Pine Grove with John Barr as its first postmaster.

Suedburg

Suedburg, then known as Mifflin, in 1875 consisted of a hotel, a store, a church and half a dozen dwellings. A hotel has been kept for many years and is still being kept. Hans C. Christeson opened the first store in 1868, and he was instrumental in the establishment of a post office here in about 1873. Daniel B. Kochenberger was the first postmaster, but was soon succeeded by Hans C. Christeson, who held the office until his death, in 1878, after which Mrs. Louisa Christenson was postmistress. Later Frank Kreichbaum became postmaster, and then Andrew Bohr who has been the postmaster for many years.

Outwood

Ellwood, now known as Outwood, was a post office and flag station on the Schuylkill and Susquehanna, a branch of the Reading Railroad. It had about a half dozen of buildings in 1880, but now has doubled the number of dwellings. In an old

Atlas it states that at this early date Emanuel Gamber was a dealer in dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hats and caps, hardware, queensware, wood and willow ware, etc., and postmaster at Ellwood. The post office was discontinued.

Ravine

The lower section of Ravine was called "Grutta Schtettle" and the upper part Umbenhauerstown. It is even now spoken of as Cherryville sometimes, but more often as Ravine, the name given to the post office. C. Umbenhauer was proprietor of the American Hotel according to record. This hotel was built and run by Henry Umbenhauer during the time when coal was brought to Pine Grove to ship by boat on the Union Canal.

Ravine now has some fifty dwellings, a hotel, two churches, five stores and a graded school. The people of this region are mostly miners.

Paradise

Paradise, another village that has grown in size in the last few years, has about thirty houses. It has two stores, a church and a graded public school, and is rather a popular place as it is near Sweet Arrow Lake which is a noted resort for summer sport.

Pleasant Valley

Pleasant Valley lying east of Pine Grove along the cement state road sprang into prominence and rapidly increased in population when the electric light and power plant located in its midst. It has more than forty homes, a church and a graded school. Several stores have also been opened to accommodate the inhabitants.

Marstown

Marstown, often called Chicken Town, is southeast of Pine Grove, along the Pine Grove-Rock road, and is more like a suburb of town. This village has a graded school and about twenty dwellings.

Oak Grove

Oak Grove, a rather scattered village, known at one time as "Schludder Dahl," lies along the Susquehanna and Schuylkill Railroad, about three miles west of Pine Grove. It has about thirty houses, a chapel, two stores, and a graded school.

Pleasant Hill

Pleasant Hill, a collection of a dozen houses, is located several miles east of Pine Grove and has a single room school.

Brookside

Brookside, or sometimes called Crowtown, lies a half mile south of Pine Grove. It has about fifteen dwellings and a one-room school.

Taxables In Township

Pine Grove Township had 29 taxables in 1754, 69 taxables in 1772. From 1754 to 1771 taxes were collected by Bern Township, of Berks County. George Goodman became the first tax collector of Pine Grove Township in 1772.

Pine Grove Township had 249 taxables in 1811, nine years later there were 327 taxables and in 1829 it had 612, but when Wayne Township was cut off from Pine Grove Twp., the number of taxables was reduced to 281. The Township has at present 545 taxables.

The population of the township in 1830 was: 1,601; 1840, 1,298; 1850, 1,967; 1860, 2,817; 1870, 2,274; 1880, 2,327; 1920, 2,714; 1930, 2,873.

UNION CANAL

The Union Canal, which was designed to connect the waters of the Susquehanna and Schuylkill, and through the latter to make connection with the Delaware, was one of the earliest chartered corporations in the State, being an act approved March 11, 1811.

The Union Canal had its headquarters at Pine Grove and ran to the Water-Works Dam, a distance of twenty-two miles, where it ran to a junction point. One branch ran southwest along the Swatara River for a distance of thirty miles where it connected with the Susquehanna Canal at Portsmouth, which is now called Middletown. The other branch from Water Works Dam ran in a southeastern direction about fifty miles and connected with the Schuylkill Canal at Reading, Pa. This branch of the canal went through under a mountain near Lebanon, and was the first tunnel in the United States. This tunnel is still in existence and is the oldest tunnel in the United States.

In 1828, the project was conceived of constructing a dam across Swatara Gap for the purpose of a reservoir for this canal. The citizens along the Swatara Creek objected because this dam would destroy their facilities for rafting lumber to Jonestown, which was then their market. In order to obviate this objection, it was proposed to make a slackwater navigation in the Swatara from Pine Grove and pass the dam by a series of locks. In attempting to execute this project it was found more practicable to construct a canal along the Swatara in Schuylkill County, and it was accordingly done, with the exception of about two miles of slackwater near the county line, in what was the little dam. Work was com-

menced on the dam in the gap in the fall of 1828, and during the year 1829 operations were prosecuted along the entire line. The canal was so far completed that boats passed through it to Pine Grove Nov. 22, 1830, and on Dec. 3rd of the same year the first boat left Pine Grove for Phila. No dams, except for feeders, were built above the little dam spoken of. Between Pine Grove and the slackwater above the little dam there were four locks, with an aggregate fall of about 32 feet.

Difficulty was experienced in obtaining possession of the stream to construct a dam for the upper feeder, and the citizens turned out with their teams on a Saturday night, and, out of straw, hemlock brush, stones and earth, made a dam, which they completed before midnight. It is a remarkable fact that, though floods have carried away the other dams on this stream, this one remained.

The coal was brought from the Lorberry mines to the canal at Pine Grove. A large number of boats left Pine Grove with coal for New York City. Some went as far as Hartford, Conn. On their return they brought back from Phila. and New York City groceries, dry goods, etc. for the merchants at Pine Grove. They also brought in iron ore from Cornwall and Marietta to supply the Eckert's forge at what is now near the High Bridge, Pine Grove Furnace, and Stanhope furnace.

The canal as first constructed was capable of bearing boats with a capacity of 28 tons, which was at first found to be sufficient for the trade of the region. As the coal production increased greater facilities for its transportation were required, and in 1851 the canal was enlarged so as to float boats of 80 tons burden.

They soon found a shortage of water, especially during dry spells. In 1850, the Union Canal Co. built the so-called 'Big Dam' to store sufficient water to take care of the dry spells. This dam was located where the Sweet Arrow Lake now is, but in size and capacity Sweet Arrow Lake is but a pond compared to the Big Dam. The Big Dame covered over seven hundred acres, and the breast was 45 feet high.

In order to fill the canal from the dam, gates were drawn and the water ran down the creek through Pleasant Valley and joined the Swatara Creek. The Swatara Creek was dammed up just above the Mill St. bridge from which a tunnel was built through under the street and the banks of the canal basin.

On the night of June 2, 1862, during a great freshet, the west way of the Big Dam was filled up with logs and debris and closed this channel. Because they neglected to draw the gates of the dam, the water started to wash the breast of the dam so that it broke. This did millions of dollars worth of damage along its path. Berger's and Fegley's grist mills were both destroyed, as well as all the bridges in its reach. The canal was washed away and brought the company into bankruptcy, and ended the canal boating industry in Pine Grove.

The stations between Pine Grove and Water Works where the boats made stops were: Port Mifflin, now Suedburg; Seidel's Landing; Swatara Dam, now Greenpoint; Weidman's Forge, later Union Forge, now Lickdale; Williamstown, now Jones-town; Aqueduct at Blue Rock; Misho Mill and Water Works.

Dr. Kennedy Robinson was the superintendent of the Union Canal Co. at the Pine Grove end.

Berger's Mills

The saw-mill required water power and Swatara was a natural place

for a mill-dam. This dam known as the "Berger Dam" in later years had a long history, constructed before 1780 and lasting till just a few years ago. It, with saw-mill and flour and feed mill as well as the covered bridge across the Swatara Creek and the roadbed was washed away clean in 1862, when the great reservoir (about a hundred times the capacity of the present reservoir known as Sweet Arrow Lake), built by the Union Canal Co. in 1850, broke. The mill-dam was rebuilt with a large saw-mill for big timber and a circular saw-mill for smaller timber. In 1879 the present flour and grist mill was constructed and carried on more or less to the present time. The foundation for this mill was started in the spring of 1879. Solomon Zettlemoyer and a Mr. Lehman put up the wall, and Nicholas Clements and Elias Berger cut the first big pine tree used in building the mill. All the wood needed for the mill was taken from the farm. All the lumber was sawed by William Berger on the place. Carpenters Isaac Herring and Jared Brown with Benjamin Berger as foreman put up the building. This frame building is 35 ft. by 30 feet and is three and one-half stories high. The mill-wrights were Wm. Ney, Frank Savage, Hiram Miller, and John Rentz.

All machinery and other parts of the mill were made in the mill by hand. The water wheel was a wooden over-shut wheel, nine feet high, ten feet wide, it produced 25 horse-power which was needed to operate the mill. The wheel was built and assembled on the place. Its services extended from 1879 to 1925, nevertheless the wooden shaft was still in a first class condition. The mill was remodeled in 1890, by the Wolfe Company, and Frank Yeagley was the millwright. The capacity of the mill now is 25 bar-

Joseph H. Zerbey History, Pottsville and Schuylkill County, Penna.

rels. In 1925 the power was changed to electricity.

The dam had been broken at various times by floods, 1862-1887-1890-1902, but always rebuilt. The sawmills did a long and useful business. Like a lot of things they fell into disuse through lack of timber and the more aggressive steam sawmills. Thus in time they became ruins, and then dismantled in 1931, and passed forever from view. The big saw-mill has been replaced by a cold storage cellar where the best flavored fruit may be tasted the long winter through to late spring.

The last act of the "Berger Dam" came after the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. acquired it. In 1925, the gates were opened and the water passed on, leaving only a memory!

Stanhope Forge and Furnace

A forge was built by Daniel Rau denbuch in an early day, at what is now Stanhope. In 1844, it was converted into a furnace by Adam Brown, and was operated as such quite extensively, but later it was operated intermittently, and after each active period remained idle for some time. The owners of this furnace were respectively: Augustus Huber and Zachariah Batdorf; John Winecoop and brother; Thos. Cooch; and lastly Breitenbaugh and Sheets who permitted it to run down until 1875 when it was discontinued. Nothing remains except slack. Some of this has been crushed and used as a bed for public road purposes.

Charcoal, lime and wood were used at this furnace, and later coal was brought down from the Lorr berry mines. The iron ore used here was brought from Cornwall and Marietta, Lebanon County.

Swatara Forge and Furnace

The Swatara forge was started as a furnace in 1830, by Geo. N. Eckert

and Simon Guilford. This was located several miles north of Suedburg near the High Bridge. It was afterward converted into a forge, operated by Geo. N. Eckert. Remains of this forge still exist.

The Pony Farm

In 1884, P. L. Weimer bought a farm of 250 acres from Peter Zimmerman. Later he bought some adjoining land until the farm contained 320 acres.

The following year he built two large barns and started the Shetland Pony business with sixty heads of ponies imported from Scotland. This was followed by other importations including several stallions.

The railway station placed here along with a siding was named after a place in Scotland by the name of Exmoor.

The ponies raised were all broken to harness and saddle, so that children could handle them. Most of the sales were made at the American Horse Exchange in New York City. A well-trained pony sold for as high as \$360.

About this time he started the Jersey cattle breeding business, buying registered Jersey cattle from Canada and England. He paid high prices for this thoroughbred stock. For one imported bull (Stoke Pogis) he paid \$4,000 and one cow (Mary Ann of St. Lambert) cost \$1,200. For six twelve-week old Jersey calves he paid J. Wills, of Marlboro, N. J., \$3,300.

About this time prices on both cattle and butter dropped so that it no longer paid to keep high bred stock. Many of the farmers considered their scrub cows equal to thoroughbreds. The cattle and ponies were all sold, and the place is now used for farming purposes.

Camp Pine Grove

During the fall of 1925 the Troop Committee and Scoutmaster of Troop No. 111, Boy Scouts of America of Pine Grove, bought a tract of land consisting of fifty-four acres from Irwin Fidler, Esq., of Rock. This tract lies at the foot of the northern slope of the Blue Mountains, about one mile south of Stanhope Station. Since several other parcels of land have been added until it comprises eighty acres, mostly in timber.

A dam covering several acres has been constructed for fishing, boating and swimming purposes. Much time and labor as well as considerable money have been used in this project.

A beautiful camp site has also been laid out which has been used by the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts of Pine Grove, as well as other people, for the past eight years. This place of real nature has been developed by the scouts under the leadership of their scoutmaster, Wm. H. Smith, into a most beautiful place.

Steam Electric Station

After the power plant at Palo Alto, operated by the East Penn Electric Co. was found to be inadequate in 1922, a location about one mile east of the town of Pine Grove was selected for a new plant.

The Pine Grove site was selected because of its proximity to the coal fields, its abundant space for coal and ash storage; and because a supply of water uncontaminated with mine refuse was obtainable from the East Branch of the Swatara Creek.

The plant, which was built in 1922-23 by the J. G. White Corporation, for East Penn Electric Co., consisted of modern type brick and steel building housing two 12,500 kilowatt steam turbine driven gen-

erators, with surface condensers, and six stokers fired, 800 horsepower boilers designed for 300 pounds working steam pressure, together with all necessary auxiliary equipment. The fuel was No. 3 buckwheat anthracite.

Coal was delivered in standard railroad cars and either dumped directly into hoppers in the plant or into the storage area nearby. If dumped into the plant, it was hoisted automatically to a hopper at the top of the boiler room from whence it was distributed to the boilers by means of a weigh larry.

Inasmuch as the flow of the Swatara Creek was, at times, too small to supply the full amount of water for the condensers, a spray pond, the largest ever built up to this time, was included in the installation and a dam was constructed about one-half mile north of the plant to control stream flow. The dam was designed so that by increasing its height, sufficient water could be impounded to take care of a considerable increase in the size of the plant.

Early in 1925, the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. purchased East Penn Electric Co. and subsequently, due to constantly increasing demand for electricity in its territory found it necessary to add to its generating facilities. It was decided to build an extension to the plant at Pine Grove adding one 30,000 kilowatt turbo-generator, three 1800 horsepower pulverized coal fired boilers designed for 400 pounds working steam pressure and a coal preparation plant to house pulverizing mills and rotary coal dryers. This addition, when completed in 1927, brought the total generating capacity of the plant up to 55,000 kilowatts with a total installed boiler capacity of over 10,000 horsepower.

Up to the time this addition was put into service, all large anthracite burning power plants used traveling grate stokers or hand fired grates under the boilers. Very small sizes of anthracite including waste from fresh mined coal had been unmarketable because no way had been found to burn them efficiently.

At the present time, over 150,000 tons of this formerly unmarketable fuel are pulverized and burned every year in the new portion of the Pine Grove Plant. The original stoker fired section of the plant burns about 75,000 tons of No. 3 buckwheat per year.

In addition to burning large quantities of anthracite and thus providing work at the mines for large numbers of people, about 125 people are employed in the plant itself.

The Pine Grove plant not only supplies electricity to Pottsville and surrounding territory but is connected by 66,000 volt transmission lines to Harrisburg, and to Fishbach and Exchange Substations near Mt. Carmel.

ROADS

At first the settlers followed mostly Indian trails in their venture through the forests. These trails or paths were narrow, only being passable on foot or horseback. These paths followed the valleys around the hills or mountains whenever possible, thereby producing a very irregular and crooked path. Whenever it was necessary to cross hills or mountains, the lowest parts were always taken.

The Sunbury Road or Trail crossed the Blue Mountains where the present Pine Grove-Millersburg public road crosses the ridge of the mountain. Thence it extended north down the mountain slope into the valley to where a man named Bress-

ler had settled, later John Wagner's farm, now the home of George Schnoke; from this place it went in a northeast direction passing the present site of the public school building at Stanhope; thence in a northerly direction to what is now Pleasant Hill; from where it went west along the present road leading to Pine Grove to what is now East Pine Grove; thence north along what is termed "Lover's Lane" to Ravine; it extended north passing through Lorberry and Joliett connecting with the main Sunbury Trail at Deep Creek Valley five miles west of Ashland.

This road was at first just a path used by people on foot or horseback. Later it became widened for wagon use. Shorter paths into other sections of the township were made until there was a net-work of paths and roads. These were, after years of use, gradually but slowly improved until there now is a complete system of fine roads.

The natural effect of the construction of the earliest wagon roads, including the Sunbury Road, was to draw a more adventurous population into the regions through which they ran. This increased the population considerably.

Roads were for years obstructed by stumps and rocks, and all streams were crossed by fordways, where the water was shallow.

Odd Brakes For Steep Roads

It is said that in very early times a curious plan was adopted for "braking" wagons in descending the sides of mountains or hills on these roads. Brakes such as are now used were not known, and the result of "chaining the wheel" was the speedy grinding away and destruction of the tire. To accomplish their purpose the teamsters adopted the plan of cutting trees of suitable size at the top of the mountain or hill and

fastening them to the rear of their wagons and dragging them down, not only relieving their teams from the labor of holding back the loads but preventing accidents. Large accumulations of these trees were often seen at the bases of the mountains on these roads.

Quite a traffic was carried on by means of the river. The melting of the winter snows, which fell in large quantities, was taken advantage of to raft down the lumber which was cut during the winter. Supplies were brought back from the city by means of flat boats and canoes propelled by poles or even towed by horses that moved along the shore or bank crossing from side to side to obtain the best channel.

Pine Grove Township has one of the best layout of public roads found in any community. There are sixteen roads leading through Pine Grove Township into the town of Pine Grove. Five come in from Harrisburg, Lebanon and other intervening places on the west; two from the north from Tremont and Joliett connecting with the main highway on the north; seven coming in from the east connecting with Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven, Summit Station and other eastern points; and two from the south crossing the Blue Mountains reaching Fredericksburg and Millersburg. There are also many roads connecting the main roads.

Years ago the supervisor when about to repair the road in a certain locality would ask the help of the taxpayers and their compensation would be deducted from their road tax. Later the township secured a "scraper," a machine which would scrape the ground from the sides toward the middle of the road. Now a drag is used to repair the mud or ground roads.

First Road Improved By State
In 1908 the State took over a

short stretch of road, then a part of the township, but now known as Annex. This road is about 3,300 feet long and was constructed with what is known as Telford bottom. This was the first improved road in this part of the country.

The cement road leading from Washington Township through Pine Grove west to Lebanon County was constructed in 1925. It is thirteen miles long and is one of the finest roads for driving. After much agitation the State Highway Department finally constructed a fine concrete road between Pine Grove and Tremont. This stretch of six miles of fine cement road was constructed during the summer of 1932.

The roads leading from Pine Grove to Summit Station, from Pine Grove through Paradise Valley to Cressona, from Pine Grove south to Swope's Valley, from Pine Grove west through Oak Grove to Suedburg are macadam type of roads. All are the bituminous macadam, except about a mile of the water-bound macadam type. The road leading to Millersburg has been partly graded to the ridge of the Blue Mountain and will be completed in the future.

Pine Grove Township has twenty-three miles of state highway roads and thirty-eight miles of township roads. All these roads are under the supervision of Caretaker Aaron Spangler.

Pine Grove Township has twelve cement bridges as follows: Lorry Junction, Cherryville, one north of Pine Grove on the Tremont-Pine Grove road, on the Paradise road, Pleasant Valley, Stanhope, east of Pine Grove on the Pine Grove-Rock road, south of Pine Grove, Swatara Valley, two at Suedburg, and one at Outwood. There also is a steel bridge at Marshtown.

RAILROADS

The Union Canal Railroad was the first railroad chartered in the county. It was incorporated by a supplement to the several acts incorporating the Union Canal Co., which supplement was approved March 3, 1826. It authorized the company "to construct a railway or railways branching from said navigation to any point or points which may be required for the communication between the said Union Canal and coal mines of the Swatara and the country west and northwest thereof."

In accordance with the provisions of its charter it was constructed to the junction of Lorberry and Swatara Creeks, and used mainly for the transportation of coal. It was built of wooden rails, stringers, topped with 1-4 in. x 1-2 in. strap iron. The cars were drawn by horses from Pine Grove to the Lorberry mines where they were loaded with coal and run down the grade to Pine Grove again. The horses were taken down the road to bring the cars up. Several cars were brought down on one trip. Rings were attached to the sides of the cars through which ropes were drawn to keep them together.

This Lorberry Mine was owned by John Strimpler and a Mr. Shoemaker. A Mr. Stackpole was superintendent of the road. He accidentally got under the cars and was injured so severely that he died. He being the captain of a military company, was buried with military honors, at Pine Grove, from what is now St. Peter's Lutheran Church. This was the first military funeral held at Pine Grove, and people came from the country for many miles.

On April 2, 1831, the Swatara and Good Spring Creek Railroad was chartered. It was to run from the

northern end of the Union Canal Co.'s railroad, up the Swatara River to its junction with the Good Spring Creek, and thence up the said creek to a point most suitable in the heart of the coal region. March 25, 1841, its name was changed to the Swatara Railroad Co.

By supplements to the charter the time for construction was extended several times, and by other supplements the company was authorized to construct branches, make extensions, and form connections. By a supplement passed April 6, 1848, the use of locomotive power on the railroad was authorized, and locomotives were soon afterward placed on the road.

In 1863 the road was leased by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Co., and afterward purchased by that company. About six miles had been built when it was leased, and a branch from Tremont up Middle Creek partly graded. The road has been extended by the Phila. and Reading.

Another Road Incorporated

On April 25, 1844, the Fishing Creek, Swatara and Schuylkill Railroad, commonly known as the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, was incorporated. It was to run from Fishing Creek Gap in the Sharp Mountain, near the junction of Fishing Creek and Baird's Run, in Pine Grove, along the valley between Sharp and Second Mountains to the Swatara; and thence, by a favorable route, to the summit between Little Swatara and Bear Creek; and by the valley of the latter to the Phila. and Reading Railroad, at some point near the mouth of Bear Creek. In 1847 the time for commencement was extended to 1850, and in 1850 to 1855.

This road runs from Auburn to the county line in Tremont Township via Pine Grove, and extends thence to Dauphin, where it con-

nects with the main line between Harrisburg and Williamsport.

This road was built by Irish laborers. Large and strong Canadian horses, brought from Canada, were used to draw the cars, or dumpers, to handle the ground and gravel taken from the cuts and filled in the high banks. This material was loosened by dynamite, pick, and shovel.

Captain Tyler, a West Point graduate, was the first president of the road. W. R. Tracy, of Pine Grove, was the superintendent of the road up to 1868. Harry W. Tracey then became superintendent and remained so up to 1897.

In 1868 construction was begun on a railroad extending from Pine Grove through the valley along the Swatara Creek to Lebanon connecting with the main line between Reading and Harrisburg. This road which took the place of the Union Canal, was completed several years later, and along with the road running from Pine Grove through Tremont is known as the Tremont and Lebanon Branch of the Reading Railway Company.

Kennedy Robinson representing the Railway Co. adjusted the claims of the land owners along this railway. John Leffler lost his life while employed in the construction of this railway.

CHURCHES

Jacob's Church of Swatara Valley was built in 1780 on a tract of land obtained from the government, containing thirty-seven acres. The congregation was organized, and a church built of hewn logs, in the same year. The records of this congregation for the first nineteen years are wanting. No list of the communicant members can be found. The names of the building committee of the first church were: John Stein, Balthaser Bohr, George

Felty, Lenhart Minnich, and John Brenner. As this was the only church in this region and the country thinly settled, many of the members had a long distance to come. The ministers who were present and dedicated the first church were: Revs. Frederick V. Melsheimer and Wm. Kurtz, the latter being the pastor.

Comparing their wanderings in search of a home to the patriarch Jacob, they named the church Jacob's Church. This name has never been changed.

The first person buried at Jacob's Church was Sebastian Felty son of George Felty, the first settler in the locality. The young man was drowned in the Swatara while rafting logs. Among the first burials recorded was Philip Keiser who died March 18, 1804. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Williams Valley located on the present site of Tower City. As there were no churches in that vicinity at the time of his death, he was carried across these mountain trails to Jacob's Church for burial. They arrived here bearing the crude homemade coffin wearied and fatigued from their long journey followed by a few mourners.

In the early days of the Church the pastor or one of the officers was the 'Forsprecher' for the hymns. It is also a matter of record that the collection was taken in 'Clingelsocks,' a sack on the end of a pole to which was attached a bell to waken the sleepy members.

There are no records of this church available of an earlier date than 1799. The first church was used as a place of worship till 1833, when it was torn down and a new one erected of logs and weatherboarded. John Stein and Geo. Stein were the building committeemen.

It is known that the pastors since its organization were: Rev. Wm.

Kurtz, 1780-1798; Rev. Andrew Schultz, 1798-1802; Rev. John Knoske, 1802-1811; Rev. Geo. Minnig, 1811-1833; Rev. Wm. Minnig, 1833-1839; Rev. A. B. Gockeler, 1839-1845; Rev. Benj. Stadtler, 1845-1849; Rev. Edw. Breidenbaugh, 1849-1852; Rev. Elias S. Henry, 1852-1897; Rev. Herman F. Kroh, 1897-1911; Rev. Harry S. Dollman, 1912-present.

Additions have been made to the already large cemetery. Here people from all over the eastern part of the State of Pennsylvania come to visit their dead, who are buried here.

Within a year a U-shaped driveway was constructed between the Church and the public road. The large yard in front of the church was laid out in a fine lawn with ornamental trees and flower beds. A stone marker also improves the view. This adds very noticeably to the beauty of this historic spot. A building forty feet square was built last year to take care of the social side of the congregation.

Churches of Ravine

Rev. William H. Uhler, son of David and Julian Uhler, who was born and reared in this vicinity, became the first United Brethren minister in Ravine and vicinity. He conducted many church revivals and through these efforts brought many a sinner into the fold of God.

This neighborhood had no Church or Sunday School services up to 1853, when Wm. H. Uhler, a member of the United Brethren Church of Pine Grove, started services in a private house, a log house known as the Batdorf home, on the back road, opposite the hotel, known as the Cross Road Hotel. This log house was occupied by Samuel Umberhauer until 1858, when he vacated and a Mr. Miller moved in. Church and Sunday School services

were conducted here until 1863, when the place was found too small, and accordingly they decided to build a new church more in the centre of the village, and along the 'Sunbury Road' for the convenience of all people. So under the leadership of Rev. Uhler, they built a small church. These people worshipped here for a number of years, but the membership increased until they again found it too small. They now discussed a plan of securing larger quarters, and finally decided to build a second church. Since there was no public school in this region, they decided to sell the old building to the School Directors of Pine Grove Twp. School District and build the second church. This project was approved by the citizens of the village, and in about 1867, under the supervision of Rev. Uhler, the new and more commodious building was erected.

The first church building was afterward remodeled by John A. Zimmerman, now the principal merchant of the village, into a double dwelling, which is occupied at present by Wm. Rump and Thos. Wenzel. The second church building remains to this day. It is the first house north of the present school house, and occupied at present by Henry Lehr and Wm. Shollenberger.

Some years afterward, Rev. Uhler went to another charge and was succeeded by Rev. Craumer. Later the membership dwindled, and being left in the hands of class leaders services were finally discontinued. About this time, Rev. Elias S. Henry, Lutheran minister of Pine Grove, came here and with the permission of the School Directors of Pine Grove Township School District, was allowed to preach in the public school house. Percival Barr was the janitor and steward for Rev. Henry.

The following spring, the village of Pine Grove organized an independent school district and by shrewd manipulation on the part of the schoolmen, they elected their directors by a majority of one, and opened a school for four months in the old schoolhouse which, with the lot, was donated to the town by its builders.

Form Independent School District

In 1843, Mr. Strong and a few others organized an independent school district, called it North Pine Grove, and opened a school for four months. In 1845, Colonel Eckert and others formed another, called it West Pine Grove, and opened a school for five months. The remainder of the township was without schools until 1847, except when some nomadic schoolmaster collected a few children in an unoccupied building for about two months during the winter. The independent school districts, through their free schools, had taught the poorer classes by this time, that for a tax of about a dollar, they could send a whole family of children to school four months. The accession of this class to the ranks of the schoolmen elected a board friendly to the free school system. They at once organized, built school-houses, and opened six schools for a term of four months.

The first school building in the West Pine Grove Twp. Independent School District built in 1845, was a one-room building located at the cross-roads near where the present school house stands. It was south of the public road and between the mill race and the private road leading to Klinger's mill, which is still in operation. This was used for school purposes until 1873. The building was sold to the Lutheran Congregation.

On Aug. 13, 1872, the school directors made a contract with Ezra

Felty to build the present school house for \$1,785. This was a two-story edifice and the primary grades were placed on the first floor with the grammar grades on the second floor. In 1894, an addition was made which gave the district three rooms. These continue to this day.

The first teacher as recorded in the minutes was J. H. Butler, of Chester County, for a five-months term, at forty-five dollars a month.

The following teachers taught in the West Pine Grove Township schools: Jacob Burgner, Peter Burgner, Barbara Phillips, Ella Gilbert, Geo. Adams, Ella Reinhart, Geo. Thiel, Anna Thompson, L. G. E. Felty, Mary Thompson, Emma S. Wolfe, Wm. H. Kremer, Clara Beuchler, Andrew Bohr, Carrie Sheidy, Milton Dieffenbach, Ella Stitzer, Irene Huber, Lillie Dieffenbach, Irwin A. Reed, May Haak, Minnie Bailor, Jennie Myers, Geo. A. Behney, Geo. W. Wagner, Cora Ney, Hattie Freed, Minnie Phillips, Eva Schlappich, Raymond Wagner, Elizabeth R. Bock, Rebecca Artz, Madeline Mason, Gabriel H. Bohn.

Before Oak Grove or Irving brick school houses were erected, a building used for school purposes stood at the cross-road, one mile west of Beuchler Station, on the public road leading from Pine Grove to Outwood. Very little data can be obtained as all the people who had knowledge of such a building have died.

Mrs. John Christ, late of Pine Grove, who then lived south of Beuchler on the Edward Aungst farm, attended this school when a girl.

School Districts United

In 1847 the public school system was admitted, and the East Pine Grove and North Pine Grove Township School Districts were united. The school directors now decided to build six school houses as recorded data shows.

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On April 27, 1850, a lot at Stanhope Furnace size forty-five feet by fifty-seven feet, was sold for \$10 by John Derfler to Pine Grove Twp. School Board, composed of Jacob Stein, Peter Klick, Wm. Mayberry, Conrad Richards, John Felty, and John A. Dutter. This school house was located on the northeast corner of the Rock-Pleasant public roads, and was used for school until 1876. It was sold to Henry Derfler who changed it to a dwelling. Dorcas Huber, Enoch Moore and Jerry Lehman were teachers in this school.

On Sept. 7, 1850, a lot was sold for one dollar, from John Stein to Pine Grove Twp. School Directors; John Stein, Wm. Mayberry, John Ney, John Felty, Conrad Richards and George Rehrer. This building was erected at Oak Grove, and was replaced by a brick one in the early seventies. Some of the teachers were Sallie Haley, Jerry Lehman, and one by the name of Wistler.

On Oct. 24, 1851, John Stein and his wife Susannah, deeded a lot to Pine Grove Twp. School District, the directors of which were: John Ney, George Markey, John Stein, Jacob Stein, John Sattizahn, and John Felty. The price paid was five dollars. This edifice was located about halfway between the present home of Claude Neitlinger and Wm. Rehrer, on the south side of the road. About 1873 this school was vacated and a new brick one erected where the present frame school house stands near Irving Station. George Maurer, a man by the name of Haug, George Mars, William Mars, Perry Bixler, a Mr. Umberger, Eliza Huber and Mary Seigfried were some of the teachers.

On March 15, 1855, George Eckert and Emily his wife, of Phila., and Simeon Guilford and his wife Catharine, of Lebanon, sold a lot for the sum of \$5 to the school direct-

ors of Pine Grove Twp. This school was built on the cross-roads east of Ottis Rehrer's farm, and was used for school purposes until 1875, when the present brick building at Brookside was erected. John F. Werntz, later the founder of the Pine Grove Bank, and Jerry Lehman were teachers in this school.

Record shows that a lot was deeded to the Pine Grove Twp. School District, in 1855, by John Zerbe and his wife Mary, for one dollar. This corresponds to the location of the school house below the Schultz's farm. Some of the teachers here were Edward Hummel, who taught many years, John F. Werntz, Singleton Hikes, Morris W. Hikes and Josiah Christ.

On April 23, 1857, Samuel Halderman and his wife, Harriet, sold a lot for \$8 to the school directors who were: John Gauby, John Ney, Jacob Stein, Samuel Fry, Enoch Moore, and Singleton Hikes. This school house was erected on the corner of the Paradise-Ravine public road, opposite Harry Spancake's gas station. School continued here until a brick building was built where the present frame school house now stands. Among the teachers were Annie Longenecker, Louis Hummel, Edward Hummel, and Lizzie Williams.

A lot was sold by Martin Kuhns, for the sum of five dollars, on Nov. 30, 1857, to the directors of Pine Grove Twp. Schools: John Stein (of Peter), John Stein (of Henry), John Stein (of George), John Zerbe, John Ney and George Markey. You will notice there were three John Steins on the school board and five of the names were 'John'. This school house was located a short distance in from the public road where Nelson Napp once lived, in Swope's Valley. Sallie Dennis, Milton McGuire, Louis Sarge, Louis Hummel and Maj. Levi Huber were among the known teachers at this school.

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Jacob Eberly also sold a lot to the school district during the year of 1857, for \$10. This must be the location for the old school building on Pleasant Hill. This was erected on the spot where the present school is, only the old building faced toward the east.

Six Schools In Township

A record gives Pine Grove Twp. as having six schools at one time, all the teachers being male. The enrollment of the schools was two hundred fifty-five, forty of which brought German books to school. A \$500 tax was levied for all purposes. The State paid \$156, giving the enormous sum of \$656. They paid the teachers \$494; fuel and everything else, \$50; repairs were \$4.50.

These early school houses had a single aisle running through the middle of the room, with long benches extending from the aisle to the walls. The benches had a back to rest against. They had a small stove in the middle of the room, and wood was mostly the fuel used. On a cold day the children near the stove would almost roast and those farther away would be often very cold. The goose-quill was used to write in the copy book. Many pupils had no textbooks, and there was nothing to create a desire on the part of the pupils to attend the school. Farmers kept their older children at home until all the farm work was done, and kept them out of school in early spring. Many attended school only short periods during the then short term. Many of the boys and girls attended until they were nineteen and twenty years of age, and it often required all the personality as well as the muscular side of the teacher to handle these big raw-boned pupils.

School No. 1

About 1875 John Stein who then owned the farm now belonging to

Ottis Rehrer, sold a lot to the Pine Grove School District, on which was erected one room, a brick building for school purposes. This has been used continuously since for school. This is School No. 1.

The following taught in this school: Jerry Lehman, Eugène Kern, Peter Keeny, Edgar Bechtel, Ella Johnson, Andrew Hummel, John Boyer, W. H. Kramer, Harry M. Jones, Gregory Achenbach, Irwin F. Struphar, John H. Angst, D. B. Moyer, Geo. Smith, Oscar Hatter, Raymond Wagner, Lambert Spancake, David Zimmerman, Allen Fehr, Lyman Schrope, Edwin Lamey, Harvey Hesser, Chas. M. Keeny, Stella Hughes, Ethel Werner, Esther Greenawalt, Louis Zeigler, Gertrude G. Haley, Wm. H. Smith, Mary Brommer, Kathryn Miller, Olive V. Mosher, Helen C. Kinsinger.

School No. 2

Number Two School is located in the upper section of Swope's Valley. It is a one-room brick building erected in the early seventies, and used for school since. The following teachers are on record: Levi F. McDonough, John F. Wernzt, Victor Porterfield, Irene Huber, Sadie Sauser, Lyman Stupp, John H. Angst, Wm. H. Smith, Harry Stine, Amelia Bailor, Frank Smith, Herman Loy, Jeremiah Heffner, Elmer Keeny, David Zimmerman, Chas. M. Keeny, Geo. I. Christ, Lillie Lyons, Catherine Long, Lena Barr, Harold Hummel, Robert Spancake, Stanford Schwalm, Stanley Lewars, Louis Zeigler, Miriam Readinger, Alice V. Haley, Gertrude Zerbe, Carl Wolf, Geo. J. Wagner, Mrs. Emma Hikes, Mrs. Esther Clements, Judith M. Stauffer.

School No. 3

In 1869 John Shubart and his wife Catharine deeded a lot to the school board of Pine Grove Twp. for a consideration of \$30. On this parcel of ground, the Irving one-room

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brick school house was placed. During the early part of the year 1880, this building was blown down by a storm, but was replaced the same year by a frame building which is yet used for school. The following were the teachers: Aaron T. Felty, John Salen, Arthur Hampton, Rufus Felty, Victor Thompson, L. G. E. Felty, Morris Batdorf, Chas. Confehr, Abram B. Heisler, Thomas L. Gage, Frank Huber, Harry B. Bixler, Lyman Stupp, Carrie Boyer, John H. Angst, Gregory Achenbach, Geo. Smith, Wm. H. Smith, Amos Zerbe, Wm. H. Lehr, Elmer Keeny, Naomi Artz, Florence Reber, Edna U. Stine, Philip Rumpf, Allen Hummel, Stella Hughes, L. F. McDonough, Stanley Lewars, Mary Stine, Irene Felty, Mrs. Anna L. Seibert, Geo. J. Wagner, Chas. M. Keeny.

Oak Grove School No. 4

About 1874, the old school house at Oak Grove was considered insufficient and a new brick building was erected at the same place. Daniel Sheidy who manufactured bricks east of Pine Grove at what is now Pleasant Valley, supplied the bricks for this building as well as the others erected in the township during the seventies, and Nicholas Brenner had the contract to build them. This was a one-room building until 1911, when another room was added to the rear for a primary school. The addition is a frame building put up by Emerich & Werner, at a cost of \$747. These two schools are continued at present. There is a record of the following teachers: Jonathan Fidler, Joe Thompson, L. G. E. Felty, Samuel Fidler, Allen Manmiller, Mr. Logan, Chas. Christ, Moses Loy, George Wheeler, Thos. L. Gage, Jas. A. Heisler, Geo. Bair, John D. Williams, Lyman Stupp, Harry B. Bixler, Thos. Lehr, Verna Matten, Wm.

H. Lehr, Wm. H. Smith, George Wagner, Francis Hummel, Minnie Lebo, Lyman E. Schripe, Francis Zimmerman, Alvin Hummel, L. F. McDonough, Lillie Yocom, Ada Wenrich, Esther Garis, Rebecca Kern, Esther Greenawalt, Wm. Shollenberger, Irene Felty, Florence Hatter, Olive Lewars, Elizabeth Haley, Mabel Greenawalt, Ellen L. Zimmerman.

Gertrude Keller, Grace Achenbach, Theo. Thomas, Wilson Lewars, Mary Brommer, Chas. M. Keeny, Lillian Thompson, Olive R. Gilbert, H. I. Honsberger, Ruth M. Hoy, Jean Roberts, Judith M. Stauffer, Mrs. Emma Hikes, Emma M. Nye, Edna Zerbe.

Marstown School No. 5

More than fifty years ago the brick school house in Harveytown, now south of the Schultz's farm, was School No. 5, but as school was discontinued at above place, Marstown schools now have that number. In 1913, the Board of Pine Grove Twp. Schools contracted to Chas. Werner & Co. for the erection of a two-story frame building at Marstown, one mile east of lower Pine Grove, south of the Pine Grove-Rock public road, at a cost of \$2,460. This edifice contains two rooms, grammar and primary grades respectively. The polling place for southern Pine Grove Twp. is also here. These teachers have taught in these schools: Lester P. Zimmerman, Ellen Zimmerman, Ethel Werner, Lillie Yocom, Lydia Deaven, George J. Wagner, Miriam Readinger, John M. Zimmerman, Mary Brommer, Mabel Greenawalt, Helen C. Williams, LaVerna M. Metzgar, Ida Haldeman, Olive Lewars, Howard S. Moyer, Clara M. Schnect, Mildred E. Williams.

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School No. 6 at Cherryville

No school facilities were had in the Cherryville or Ravine region until about 1867. The children attended the school at Harveystown up to this time. Now the directors of the district schools bought a church building vacated by the United Brethren congregation. This house was afterward remodeled into a home and is at present occupied by the families of Wm. Rump and Thos. Wenrich. This school house was used for school until 1883, when a new frame building was constructed on a lot bought from Grove Sherman. Some of the teachers in the old school were: Singleton Hikes, Mr. Boyer, Mr. Umberger, Mr. Troutman, Ella Heinbach, Annie Kirk, John Salen, John Miller, Allen Mamiller, Lizzie Williams, Ada Bossler, Jonathan Fidler, Reuben Aungst.

The new frame building was a one-room school until 1895, when it became the room for the grammar grades and an addition was made for the primary grades. It is still in use, and the following teachers served: Rufus Felty, Isaac Sotzin, J. P. Moore, Will Herring, L. F. McDonough, Josiah Christ, Levi Herring, Mary Devaney, Chas. M. Keeny, Eva Schlappich, Hattie Meck, Frank Smith, Clara Wenrich, Jacob Schucker, Merle P. Horn, Esther Ney, John Schrope, Frank M. Gaul, Mary Loy.

Mary Monahan, Wm. Shollenberger, Robert Spancake, Madeline Hughes, Rebecca Kern, Esther Greenawalt, Mabel Greenawalt, Mary P. Brennan, Earnest Spittler, Wilson Lewars, Martha Spittler, Mrs. Amanda Palmer, Mrs. Roy Angst, Wm. H. Smith, Hilda Ossman, Verna C. Peiffer, Stella Stein, Helen C. Kinsinger, Lillian Thompson, Nathan Morgan, Naomi Artz, Annie Netherwood, Estella Netherwood.

Pleasant Hill School No. 7

About 1879 the old school house here was removed and a new edifice erected. This is a single room frame building which has been in continuous use for school. These are the teachers: Wm. Merrell, Louis Hummel, Annie Netherwood, Harry M. Jones, Lyman Stupp, Wm. H. Haldeman, Elmer Keeny, Elias Berger, Lester P. Zimmerman, Chas. Lehman, Mr. Kembal, Lyman Schrope, Frances Hummel, Mary Garis, Stella Hughes, Lewis Zeigler, Earnest Spittler, Miriam Readinger, Wm. J. Reinhard, Franklin Brommer, Mrs. Beulah Readinger, Ethel M. Russell, Mrs. Annie Seibert, Mrs. Marie Zimmers.

School No. 8 at Stanhope

In 1876 a one-room brick school house was built near and south of Stanhope Station. This building was destroyed by fire on Oct. 22, 1923, while school was in progress. The following year a new frame edifice was erected, by Charles Werner & Co., at a cost of \$3,440. This school building was constructed according to specifications submitted by the State Department of Public Instruction, and was the first of this kind in this section of the country.

The following teachers served here: Rufus Felty, Samuel Fidler, Isaac Sotzin, Louis Hummel, Iva Hughes, Oscar Barr, Wm. H. Smith, John Schlappich, John H. Angst, Irwin F. Strouphar, George J. Wagner, John A. Schrope; David V. Zimmerman, Miss Hubert, Harry Heinbach, Allen Fehr, Francis Zimmerman, Lester P. Zimmerman, Madeline Hughes, Lena Barr, Stella Hughes, Lydia Deaven, Esther Greenawalt, John M. Zimmerman, Miriam Readinger, Jean Roberts.

School No. 9 Paradise

About 1874, school discontinued in the old school house on the corner

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where Elias Kintzel's home now is, and a new brick building was erected where the present frame structure now is found. The northern end was blown in 1879, while the school term was in progress. This brick edifice was repaired and retained until 1891, when it was torn away and replaced by a frame building which is in use at present.

The primary room was added to the one-room building in 1910, by Frank Wheeler, at a cost of \$839. Since that time the school was graded. The following teachers served in these schools: Louis Hummel, Wm. E. Merrill, L. G. E. Felty, Jacob Schucker, Wm. Berger, Elias Berger, Lyman Stupp, Harry Stine, Amos Zerbe, Jeremiah Heffner, Eva J. Schlappich, George J. Wagner, Lewis Herring, Mr. Kembel, L. F. McDonough, Viola Haldeman, Lyman Schrope, Mary Garis, Madeline Hughes.

Calvin Zerbe, Katie M. Garis, Lillie Yocum, Chas. M. Keeny, Robert Spancake, Wm. Schollenberger, Esther Garis, Miriam Readinger, Wm. H. Smith, Esther Greenawalt, Martha Spittler, Olive Lewars, Ida Haldeman, M. Lucille Barr, David Zimmerman.

Pleasant Valley School No. 10

The children of Pleasant Valley at first went to the Paradise school, but in 1879 the present school room now used for grammar grades was built as a one-room edifice. The house now tenanted by Mrs. James Templing, just having been completed, was used for a school until the new school house was constructed. To this frame building was added, in 1906, an addition to the rear for primary grades. This new wing was built by Contractor Frank Wheeler for \$1156.

The names of the teachers were as follows: Louis Hummel, Reuben Aungst, L. F. McDonough, Ella Johnson, Frank Smith, Chas. M.

Keeny, Elias Berger, Lyman Stupp, John Schrope, George J. Wagner, Edna Stine, Estella Netherwood; Mary Garis, Louis Herring, Frances Hummel, Lena Barr, Wm. Schollenberger, Alice V. Haley, Gertrude G. Haley, Allen Fehr.

Upper Swatara Valley School No. 11

The one-room frame school house near Exmoor was erected in 1897, by Daniel Schwartz, at a cost of \$615. School was held since that time, the teachers who taught here were: Millie Bailor, Frank Smith, Elmer Keeny, George Smith, Lydia Groh, Estella Netherwood, Jeremiah Heffner, Minnie Loeb, Harold Hummel, Lena Barr, Frances Hummel, Alvin Hummel, Claude Lehman, Alma Leffler, Rebecca Kern, Mary Stine, L. F. McDonough, Mrs. Robert Kreis, Mary E. Gilbert, Mrs. Mary G. Wynn, Mrs. Merle B. Hooven, Merle A. Bohner,

Annex School

When the school located at Strongville, or later called Harveytown, was vacated, a frame building was built in what later was annexed to Pine Grove. This school house was erected in 1883, and later a wing was added for a primary school. In 1912, the directors of Pine Grove Twp. sold the building and lot to the borough school district for a consideration of one dollar. Now the building is being used as a milk plant.

The following were some of the teachers who served here: Sallie McFadden, Louis Hummel, Lillie Wilcox, L. F. McDonough, Chas. M. Keeny, Wm. H. Smith, Ella Johnson, Kathryn Lorenz, Mary Monahan, David Zimmerman, Alma Leffler, Hattie Meck, Estella Netherwood.

Because Pine Grove Twp. School District had to depend only on its farmers and laboring class of people

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for its tax resources, the length of its school term and the salary of its teachers were the minimum allowed by the State, and are so to the present time.

The equipment for school purposes at first was discouraging. Often only one child, out of a class of a dozen or more, had a textbook, but in 1899, the use of the free text-books supplied by the district school board and paid from the district funds, started. This meant much to the poorer class of people and gave the rural schools a needed advantage.

In 1899, the minimum length of the school term became seven months, in 1921 it became a seven and one-half months term, and in 1922 it was extended to an eight months term. Some of the farmers who failed to see the need of better school facilities complained at first, when the school term was lengthened. The rural schools have been helped much by laws which extended the term of school, improved school equipment and the qualification of the teacher; but the rural school children do not yet have an educational advantage equal to the children in districts better favored financially.

Wm. J. Fisher, P. B. Donmoyer, I. F. Strouphauer, John A. Aunsbach, John A. Schneck, Robert Zimmerman, Geo. O. Greenawalt, Sylvester Haas, Elias Berger, Wm. O. Schaefer, Chas. I. Donmoyer, Jas. Shollenberger, John H. Angst, Jacob Lehman, Edwin Olt, Samuel Schnoke, Elias Keeny, Abraham Clements, Elias E. Mease, James Yocom, Harry Smith, Wm. Werner, Edw. Mayberry, John P. Fegley, Wm. Zerbe, Wm. Lafayette Zerbe, Wm. Stout, Wm. Sotzin were members of the Pine Grove Township School Board at different times. At one time, there were

six Williams on the Board of Directors.

The State Department of Education had decreed that any child having completed the requirements of the eighth grade and passing the examination for high school entrance may attend a high school and the tuition be paid out of the district funds. Pine Grove Township School District, for this purpose, will have paid more than \$32,250 by the end of this school term, to the Pine Grove Borough School District, as tuition, for children from the township who attend the Pine Grove Borough High School. Besides Pine Grove Township school district has paid the Good Shepherd Home, of Allentown, Pa.; Deaf and Dumb Institute, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Bethany and Topton Orphan Home; Odd Fellows Orphan Home, Sunbury, Pa.; and Tremont Township School District the sum of \$1,875.

The present board of directors of Pine Grove Township schools is Ottis Rehrer, Pres.; Lyman Stupp, Secty.; Chas. Herring, Treas.; David Fidler, Vice Pres.; and the other member is Richard Barr.

The township has at present sixteen schools, five of which are grammar schools. The enrollment at present is 562 and eighty-one attending the Pine Grove High School.

The present teachers of Pine Grove Township public schools are: Wm. H. Smith, Chas. M. Keeny, David Zimmerman, Howard Moyer, Allen F. Fehr, Emma Ney, Edna Zerbe, Nathan Morgan, Miriam Readinger, Gertrude Haley, Mrs. Marie Zimmers, Mildred Williams, H. Corrine Kinsinger, Judith Stauffer, Merle Bohner, and Lillian Thompson.

The Berger Homestead.

This estate in whole and in part dates back to the early days of our country's history, when things were more or less dimly outlined and vaguely sectionalized. The first grant of this place, bears the signature of John Penn, son of the founder of this great Commonwealth. The next grant bears more definite knowledge, for records show that Jacob Dundore received grant and possession on October 12, 1754. This was more than fifty years before Schuylkill County was formed. He remained in possession till 1783, when he sold it to Valentine Heberling. In 1785 Jacob Heberling became owner and he in turn, on January 16, 1795, sold it to William Shertel. Later his only daughter, Elizabeth Shertel, fell heir to the property. She married Thos. Berger. Three children survived: Elizabeth, Esther, and Wm. Berger, who in turn fell heir to the estate. Elizabeth Berger received the part now occupied by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company Plant, Hallton and the Strouphauer property, etc. Esther received the property now owned by William Stump, etc. William Berger received the portion known since as the Berger Farm. He carried on from 1854 to 1907, when the estate was bought by Elias and Wm. H. Berger sons of Wm. Berger. In 1916, Elias Berger became the owner of the property and is in charge at the present time.

In its early days Indians roamed the district and many arrow heads, cut out of stone, have been found on the farm. Virgin forests covered the land and trees four feet in diameter nearly a hundred feet high were among the stately pines. Three streams cross the place, and the land flattened out between low-flung hills made good farming land. Timber was abundant and a water-power saw-mill was in operation

before 1783, for the deed conveying the property at this time mentions it. This was followed by a stone flour and feed mill.

The homestead is one of the oldest in this region, evidently built by Jacob Dundore for his residence when he settled here in 1754. It is constructed of heavy oak logs hardened by age. The doors were very heavy, being riveted inside and outside, making them about four inches thick. They were in two sections—upper and lower—so as to afford special protection for defense. Window sills also were heavy oak and strong-hinged shutters barred them. Built in the days of Indians and other dangers, necessitated a strong and well constructed house for defense against sudden attack.

The old homestead in years gone by was ever a center of industry and sociability. For generations it was a happy place with varied and joyful occasions.

Letter Tells of Early Days

The following letter written in 1916 tells something of customs a century ago:

"Sometime ago while reading an article on "Bellows," my thoughts went back some seventy years to a large pleasant old-fashioned farm house not far from Pine Grove, where things were done in grand style. Here I had the pleasure of visiting often when I was a child and here I spent some of my happiest days.

"There was a large kitchen without a stove or carpet, with a fireplace at one end big enough for three or four dinner pots to hang in a row (such as are only known nowadays as Gypsy kettles) with room enough for a pan with a long handle, and three long legs, and for a tripod.

"At one side on the hearth was a nice square block set on end for the little folks to sit on, called the cat's

chair, or the 'feuer gletzel'. On the left-hand side of the fireplace hung the bellows, more useful than ornamental, I thought, compared with the handsome pair in the sitting room.

"I often sat on a little wooden bench near enough to watch the process of cooking, sometimes with a basket of walnuts which always stood near for everyone to help themselves. But boiling coffee and frying sausage in the pan on the tripod always interested me.

"The coffee boiler was like the dinner pot but not as large. It was hung over the fire until it boiled, then set down close to the fire so it would simmer gently; the coffee stirred in and the cover put on. Then one of the girls would disappear through the trap-door with a cup and spoon to bring the cream. The boiler was drawn away from the fire and the cream stirred in, settling the coffee and giving it a beautiful color. Then came the interesting part of pouring it out into the can. They held the boiler with one hand, then took hold of one of its feet with a chip. It looked very simple and I thought I would like to try it.

"Fresh sausage was always cooked whole no matter what length if the pan would hold it, but when smoked, it was cut into short pieces before it was put in the pan, then poured into a large flat dish for the table.

"All were expected to help themselves at the table, even children if they were not too small. The table was set in the large living room. It was not an extension table but it was a large one, and sometimes made to extend by adding one or more tables to it during haymaking or harvesting. At such times the bright tin coffee can was too small and there was a beautiful copper one in its place, shaped like a tea-kettle, the inside lined with tin and

the outside as bright as a new dollar.

"It was the custom for one of the daughters to wait on the table and pour out the coffee, generally Hetty, the eldest, a beautiful girl, always neatly dressed for the occasion. She went through it all with modest grace and dignity. I think I can see her now as she passed through the long room bearing that bright coffee kettle in her strong shapely hands. She was a rare girl, such as are not often found in a country farm house.

"Customs have changed since then. There was a cup and saucer at the side of each plate and the cups were filled before the seats were taken. Sugar bowl and teaspoons were put in the center of the table."

Early Social Gatherings

A social gathering known as apple-paring party, or snitz party, but in the Pennsylvania German districts as "Shale Match," was very popular in its day. When a farmer who had a lot of apples decided to cook apple-butter, he planned one of these parties. The young people of both sexes were invited, and when the evening selected arrived, assembled and apple-peeling and apple-paring began. After this was done the room was cleaned and games were played.

The corn-husking bee was a great favorite years ago, several were held in recent years. When a farmer was ready to husk his corn, he set a date and invited the young people of the community. The young people husked in pairs, and whenever a red ear of corn was found the lucky one was entitled to a kiss from his partner. The hostess furnished good and sumptuous meals. After supper was over and everything cleaned up, games were played.

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The sleighing party was another good old time indulged in by our grandparents when they were young. Two horses, and sometimes four, would be hitched in a big sleigh for this purpose. The sleigh was packed with young couples who enjoyed themselves in fun and singing.

PROMINENT RESIDENTS

Frederick Schnoke who is claimed to have been the first settler of Pine Grove Township was born in 1737, and died in 1826. He had one child named Michael. Michael had two sons, Michael and John, and three daughters. John Jacob Schnoke had four sons, Jonathan, John Jacob, George, Henry and two daughters.

Jonathan Schnoke was born 1828 and died 1910. He had six sons who grew to manhood as follows: George, Samuel, Daniel, Henry, Isaac and Hiram. Hiram is a blacksmith and is well versed in historical data. He has traveled extensively.

Samuel Schnoke had three boys, Milton, Henry and Raymond, also six daughters. Raymond lives on the old Schnoke homestead having two sons and five daughters thus six generations have been in continuous possession of this historical home.

Uriah H. Miller

Uriah Henry Miller was born in Berks County on Aug. 4, 1856. After his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Aungst he moved to Pine Grove Twp., and lived there until his death, Aug. 26, 1931.

He was a carpenter by trade, and many barns and other large buildings throughout this region for many miles were built by him and under his supervision. He was very

exact in his work. He lived on a farm which he worked for many years.

Early in his life he acquired rudiments of music. As an instructor both in instrumental and vocal music he was very exact. He never had an instructor in instrumental music, acquiring the art by his own skill. He was choir leader and organist at Hetzel's Church for fifty-two years.

He had a large family with the following children: Cora, Uriah, Emma, Ida, Stella, William, Jacob, Harrison and Ella.

Elias N. Keeny

Elias N. Keeny was born on Oct. 18, 1835, and his wife, Isabella Moyer, on June 30, 1841. Mr. Keeny was a farmer and lived in the lower end of Swope's Valley. He was much interested in education, and served as a member of the Pine Grove Township School Board for a number of years, serving in that capacity when he died on Dec. 6, 1895. They had the following children: Peter M., a graduate of Kutztown State Teachers' College, taught school in Pine Grove Township and Pine Grove Borough for twenty-six years; John H., is a blacksmith; Sallie; Kate who died in infancy; Elmer also a teacher for several years; Charles M., a teacher having taught for twenty-six years.

The Lengel Family

Paul Lengel was born April 20, 1806, and Annie Marie Snyder, his wife, was born on Jan. 25, 1807. Both were born at DeTurksville, Washington Twp. Mr. Lengel took much interest in the affairs of the county serving both as a County Commissioner and Poor Director. He had two sons, Wm. S. and George Washington, and six daughters. He died at the age of fifty-five years.

Wm. S. Lengel was a School Director for five terms in Pine Grove and Washington Twp. He had seven sons: Albert, Paul, Thomas, Elias, Charles, Wilkes and Edward; and eight daughters. Paul was engaged in the timber business until his death, when his son, Guy, took it in hand. Guy was a candidate last election for the office of County Sheriff. Thos. W. Lengel was elected to the Township Board at the age of 28. He had ten daughters and one son.

The Lengels have a record dating from 1735 to the present, comprising eight generations. They were farmers, belonged to the Lutheran Church, and staunch Democrats taking much interest in the doings of their party.

Nelson Napp

Nelson Napp was born in Berks County, in 1840, and removed to Pine Grove Twp. while a small boy. He married Susanna Beck, of Berks County, in 1864. He was for many years a timber agent for the mines of Miller, Graeff & Company, operating at Rausch Creek. Mr. Napp served in the Civil War, and was honorably discharged. He lived in Swope's Valley and followed farming until his death a few years ago.

Capt. Hans Christeson

Capt. Hans Christeson was born in Denmark, in 1825, and came to New York in 1859. He was married to Louisa Weir, 1860. He moved to Pine Grove in 1861, and to what is now Suedburg in 1868; was merchant at Pine Grove, and a merchant and hotel keeper at Suedburg until his death on June 27, 1878. In his early life he followed the sea, having command of a ship.

John D. Felty

John Degler Felty, son of Rev. John D. Felty and his wife Elizabeth Degler, was born in Upper Mahantongo Township on Nov. 16,

1835. Later his parents moved to Pine Grove Township to farm north of Oak Swamp, about a mile west of North Pine Grove Station. On Aug. 24, 1872, he married Emma Rehrer. This union was blessed with the following children: Mary, James, Sallie, Clara, John, Sadie, and Ralph. Mr. Felty died Nov. 21, 1895.

Mr. Felty was a prominent church worker and liked much in the community in which he lived. He conducted a large farm, and for many years operated what then was known as "The Felty Mine" located about a mile south of Rausch Creek.

Levi F. McDonough

Levi F. McDonough was born in Bethel Township, Berks County, Pa., on Feb. 25, 1859.

The family removed to Pine Grove Township, east of Ravine, about three years later. He attended the public schools of the township, and afterwards completed the high school course in Pine Grove High School under the late Prof. G. W. Channel then Supervising Principal. Later he attended the Millersville State Normal School for several terms. He taught in the schools of the county for forty-five and a fraction terms, all but two in Pine Grove Township. He has been holding the office of Justice of the Peace since May 1885; has been a land surveyor for many years and during that time did some work for the county in serving as surveyor in laying out half a dozen new roads in the county; served as Lieutenant in the Pine Grove National Guard for a number of years.

On Nov. 8, 1889, he was married to Alice S. Wagner, of Philadelphia. They have five children, all of which have been teaching. Virginia, Mrs. E. E. Mason, and Hannah C. are graduates of the Keystone State Normal School; Donald L. is a Ph. D., and Laura a M. A. from

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University of Pennsylvania, and Stewart holds the degree of B. S. from Temple University.

Rev. George S. Smith

Rev. Geo. S. Smith was born in Hanover Twp., Dauphin County, Pa., on Sept. 25, 1826. When a young man he learned and worked at the blacksmith trade. Later he became the preacher in the United Brethren Church, of Pine Grove. He next affiliated with the German Baptist Denomination and became their first pastor in this vicinity serving them from 1877 to 1885. It is said that he was a forceful preacher. He died Jan. 20, 1894.

He was married to Rebecca Barr, daughter of Paul Barr.

It is said that Mrs. Smith was the first woman to ride on the train between Auburn and Pine Grove. They had four children: William, George, Mary and Harry. Harry later became interested in the automobile business in the Annex.

Edward Hummel

Edward Hummel was the son of Benneville and Louise (Zerbe) Hummel, was born in Washington Township on April 29, 1853. He died in Pine Grove on Jan. 11, 1914.

The family of which Mr. Hummel was a member was among the pioneer settlers of this part of the county; his grandfather, John Hummel, was born in Berks County, in 1776 and removed when a young man to Washington Township. He served in the War of 1812.

Edward Hummel was reared and given the advantage of a common school education as taught in the rural districts. He was a student, showed a great liking for books, made rapid progress, and at the age of 16 was granted a certificate to teach by County Superintendent Jesse B. Newlin. He taught one term in Washington Township and many terms in Pine Grove Township. He was known as a good

teacher and a strict disciplinarian. With his earnings he managed to attend several terms at Palatinate College at Myerstown, Pa.

By heredity being a democrat, he had that party in his deepest interest. At the age of 21 he was elected constable of Pine Grove Township, and the following year as Justice of the Peace, which office he held for 15 years. In 1882 he was given the nomination for legislature on the democratic ticket, and although the district was strongly republican he was elected by a good majority. He again received the nomination in 1884. He moved into the Borough in 1891 and became proprietor in his time of the Eagle, Central and Hotel Pennsylvania. In 1906-1908 he was chief clerk to the County Commissioners. He also served for years on the Borough School Board.

Fraternally he was identified with I. O. O. F. Lodge 148, Order of I. A., Knights of M. C. and P. O. S. of A.

Mr. Hummel was married to Mary E. Spangake. The union was blessed with 11 children, the following of whom are living: E. Bessie, Oscar E., Amy I., Stella, Cora, Frances, Raymond and Harold.

Moses R. Hughes

Moses Robison Hughes, son of David and Mary Hughes, was born at Manada, Dauphin County, on Nov. 3, 1846. In 1869 he was married to Adelia Stein, of Pine Grove Township. He then moved to Harrisburg, where he resided for several years where he was employed as a coachman. Next he moved to Pine Grove Township on a farm near Oak Grove, where he lived until his death on May 23, 1920. He was the father of twelve children, five boys and seven girls.

He worked at the carpenter trade, and in his earlier years was employed at the Kalmia mines under Capt. Frazer. After that until his

death he worked at Lincoln Colliery as carpenter. His kindly bearing toward his fellowmen won the respect and esteem of everybody. In his religious life he was upright and faithful. He was superintendent and teacher of the Oak Grove Sunday School for many years.

Israel H. Hummel

Israel H. Hummel, son of William and Sarah, nee Wenrich Hummel, was born in Pine Grove Township, on March 25, 1858. On Dec. 18, 1880, he was married to Emma Neidlinger. The union was blessed with the following children: Maggie, Carrie, Emma, Robert, Lizzie, Alvin, William and Eva. He died July 18, 1929.

Fraternally he was affiliated with the Odd Fellows, Red Men and Junior Order of Independent Americans. In 1899 he was elected constable of the township, and was re-elected every time until his death in 1929. He became Tax Collector in 1901 and served in that capacity until 1929.

Wm. T. Mars

William Tingel Mars was born on Feb. 22, 1805. His parents were Scotch-Irish and landed in Lancaster County. His father left for the War of 1812, but never returned leaving the widow with four children, three boys and one girl, of whom William was the oldest.

Due to the breaking up of the family, William was taken by Jacob Bean until about the age of fourteen when he was given to a cabinet maker by the name of Brotherline, of Jonestown, Pa., for apprenticeship. After serving three years and nine months, he received twelve and one-half cents and a cheap suit of clothing. Next he worked as journeyman for Mr. Brotherline for several years, after which he worked with the engineers

in the construction of the Union Canal. After this work was completed, he became walking boss traveling from Jonestown to Pine Grove several times a week to inspect the canal. On his first trip from Jonestown to Pine Grove on arriving at Georgetown, which was composed of two or three houses, he inquired the distance to Pine Grove. A woman told him she had never heard of such a place, but out here about three miles is a small place called "Bara Shstettel" meaning Barrstown.

He married Margaret Weaver and moved on the Canal farm now known as Samuel Loy's farm. started the cabinet business, later moved to the place now occupied by John Mars where he followed the cabinet and undertaking business. When he retired in 1873, he handed his business over to his two sons, Wm. and George. His children were Mary, Caroline, Harry, William, Geo. W., Sarah and Eliza. He died in 1892. William and George also taught several years school.

John H. Angst, a grandson, attended Kutztown and Lock Haven Teachers' Colleges and taught ten terms in the public schools. He then became a clerk in the Pine Grove Bank, and in 1900 when John F. Werntz, the owner, died, took charge of the bank. His children were Roy who attended the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and graduated from Muhlenburg College, and is a teacher by profession; Minerva, living at Tremont and married to Walter Smith, a dealer in automobiles; Mabel, a graduate of Gouger College, is married to Wm. G. Greene, of Philadelphia; Mary, who is married to John Thomas, is a graduate of Hood's College; and Della, after completing her studies at Hood's College took up the study of Law at Dickinson College.

Aaron Capp

Aaron Capp was born in Hanover, Pa., on Jan. 29, 1831. His father was a stern school teacher, but Aaron and his brothers took up the carpenter trade.

Aaron came to Pine Grove Twp. when a young man, married Hannah Lehr, and built a house in Swatara Valley. After living here several years, he bought a farm from Jacob Barr, near Beuchler Station. He resided here until his death, on March 24, 1890.

He had two children: Wm. Washington who died in infancy, and Malinda who married Wm. H. Smith, Sr.

He was a staunch member of the Jacob's Church and trustee for many years, a teacher and treasurer in the Sunday School continuously for a number of years.

Lyman Stupp

Lyman Stupp, son of Henry and Mary Stupp, was born on Feb. 22, 1870, in Pine Grove Township. He attended the public schools of the township and later the Kutztown Teachers' College. He took up the profession of teaching and taught eleven terms in the township. He is much interested in the schools, has been a member of the board of education for the last sixteen years, and secretary of the same for thirteen years. At present he resides on a farm on Pleasant Hill.

Abraham and John Lehr

Abraham and John, sons of Henry Lehr and wife Mary whose father, Adam Minnick was an early settler in Pine Grove Township, attended the schools of their neighborhood. When the Civil War broke out both enlisted.

John was only a youth when he enlisted, from Pine Grove, on Feb. 8, 1862, joining Company G, 107th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, for three years. On Feb. 28, 1864, he was discharged, but the same

day re-enlisted in the same company and regiment and served to the close of the war. After his discharge July 13, 1865, he took up his trade as carpenter, but later became a miner. He took much interest in civic and religious duties, having served in numerous township offices, and a faithful officer and member of the St. Paul's Reformed Church, of Ravine. He was the father of J. Thomas Lehr who taught school for a number of years and is at present in business in Philadelphia.

Abraham enlisted with his brother, John, and served to the end of the war. He was employed by the Miller Coal Co., operating near Lincoln, for many years as a contractor. He married Eliza Krebs and had a large family, of which one son William became a teacher. He resided near Beuchler Station most of his life time.

Singleton Hikes

Singleton Hikes was born in May, 1823, near York Springs. When a young man, in 1846, he moved to Pine Grove Twp., from Landisburg, Perry County, spending the rest of his life here, dying Aug. 26, 1904. Though a farmer he was occupied principally at his trade, that of carpenter, until he died. No man in his community was more sincerely respected. He was a devoted religious worker of the United Brethren Church, and one of the oldest Sunday School superintendents in this locality. Having taught school for some time he was ably fitted for his work as a church worker and member of the township school board. In 1849 he married Catharine Harvey. They were blessed with the following children. Sarah, John Calvin, Isaac, Morris W., Howard and Walter.

Morris W. Hikes

Morris W. Hikes was born in Pine Grove Twp., Jan. 26, 1862.

Here he spent his youth and later attended the State Normal School at Millersville. For eight years he was engaged in teaching. In 1890 he commenced the painting and paper hanging business and conducted same up to his death. He was much interested in welfare of the community for more than 20 years. He was a justice of the peace for many years, and then became a notary public.

John B. Stein

John B. Stein, whose great great grandfather Johannes Sebastian Stein emigrated from near Meissenheim, Germany, in 1748, was born January 1, 1823, in Pine Grove Twp. He died on March 14, 1896. He was married to Margaret Klahr, and had three children: Gustina married to John Mayberry; Adelia who married Moses R. Hughes, and Levi. Levi was one of the jurors drawn in that famous trial at Pottsville when a number of the Molly McGuires were tried. He became ill while on duty and died during the trial.

John Stein was a farmer and was noted for the fine treatment he accorded his hired people. He was a faithful member of the Jacob's Church, helping to promote and support it.

Daniel Harvey

Daniel Harvey, once a farmer in Pine Grove Township north of Pine Grove Borough then known as Harveytown, was born in Reading, Nov. 4, 1823, and removed to Pine Grove Twp. in his youth. He married Matilda Shreckengast, of Lebanon County, in 1849. From 1861 to 1875 he was outside superintendent of the Rausch Creek Coal Co. He served in numerous township offices.

William Schultz

William Schultz, the son of John and Leah Schultz, was born in

Llewellyn, Branch Twp. in 1849. He died on Thursday, Oct. 2, 1930.

He was a resident of Pine Grove Twp. for more than forty years. He conducted successfully for many years, the large farm north of Pine Grove, in which he took much delight and keen interest, in raising fine cattle and horses; his chief business interest, however, lay in his extensive timber operations, which covered a vast area, along the Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, in corners of Schuylkill, Lebanon and Dauphin Counties, which he conducted for many years.

He was married twice, and had the following children: Mrs. John Schlappich, Mrs. Frank Evans, and John Schultz. He spent his last days retired on his estate one mile north of Pine Grove.

Aaron F. Spittler

Aaron F. Spittler was born in Swatara Valley, Pine Grove Twp., on April 7, 1876. At the age of 23 he became Township Clerk and later Secretary and Treasurer. For many years he served as a road supervisor. He carried on farming for the last thirty years. In 1912 he was appointed as caretaker of the state roads, and has served as such ever since. He has at present supervision over the state and township public roads. A few years ago he was appointed as construction foreman by the State Highway Department having charge of roads under construction. He is a very capable man and all this responsibility makes him a very busy man. On Sept. 2, 1900 he married Miss Lottie Stout. They had nine children, the oldest, Earnest, is assistant cashier of the Pine Grove National Bank.

Wm. H. Stout

William Henry Stout was born at Nazareth, Northampton County, on Oct. 18, 1840. Although he had only three months schooling in a Ger-

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man school, he became a figure not only known throughout our state but also other states.

As a young man he clerked in a store in Freemansburg, near Bethlehem. He next went to Williamsport and became a lumber salesman. In March 1876 he moved to Pine Grove Twp., in what is now called Paradise, on a farm which he took in exchange for lumber. He continued as a lumber salesman for several years and then became an agriculturalist. He had one of the first peach orchards in this section and the first orchard scientifically conducted. He became a member of the State Board of Agriculture of which he was the oldest member and the longest in service having

served some forty years. He also became a state lecturer, lecturing extensively throughout this state as well as others on agricultural problems. He was the first to introduce tilling for low lands in this part of the county. Bee raising was one of his hobbies. He took much interest in the education of youth and served as school director. He was a member of the historical society of Pine Grove. He was interested in fossils, ferns, plants as well as rocks and other forms of nature.

On Feb. 9, 1862 he married Anna Matilda Walters, of Easton, Pa. This union was blessed with seven children. He died on Oct. 19, 1928, at the age of 88 years.



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